

The Honorable John C. Coughenour

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

TIMOTHY LINEHAN, on behalf of Plaintiff and a
class,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALLIANCEONE RECEIVEABLES
MANAGEMENT, INC.,

Defendant.

No. C15-1012-JCC

DECLARATION OF JUDGE
CORINNA HARN IN SUPPORT OF
KING COUNTY'S MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT DISMISSAL
PURSUANT TO FRCP 56

I, Corinna Harn, declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of
Washington that the following is true and correct:

1. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge, and I am competent
to testify hereto.

2. I have been a King County District Court judge since 1999. Prior to that I was
a judge pro tem in King County District Court and a full-time municipal court judge for the City
of Renton. I have been elected by the other King County District Court judges to the position of
presiding judge four times and finished my most recent term in 2014. I have also held the

1 position of assistant presiding judge for multiple years and I have been the presiding judge for
2 the South Division of King County District Court.

3 3. One of the duties of the King County District Court presiding judge is to sign
4 General Administrative Orders (GAOs). GAOs are generally approved by the District Court's
5 executive committee which is made up of judges from each of the court's divisions. The GAOs
6 are generally used to address issues that affect a number of cases in a procedural way. For
7 example, the court has cases where fines are more than ten years old and can no longer be
8 collected. Rather than issue an order closing each of the cases individually, a GAO might be
9 entered to direct the court clerk to administratively close all the cases falling into this category.

10 4. GAO 13-10 was the last in a number of GAOs that pre-assigned civil collection
11 cases filed by the highest volume filers to certain divisions of the King County District Court.
12 Each of these GAOs either rescinded or amended the one prior. So while GAO 13-08 governed
13 the pre-assignment of civil collection cases for part of 2013, it was repealed and replaced by
14 GAO 13-10. A true and correct copy of GAO 13-10 is attached to this declaration as Exhibit A.

15 5. As stated in these GAOs, their purpose was to promote prompt and efficient
16 customer service. The customers referred to in GAO 13-10 and the GAOs that preceded it were
17 all customers of the court – plaintiffs, defendants, witnesses and attorneys. The GAOs promoted
18 good service to these customers in part by balancing judicial caseload and ensuring that the
19 judges hearing civil cases in each division were able to manage their dockets, reduce the time
20 litigants had to wait for their cases to be called, and minimize the times that criminal cases would
21 take precedence over civil cases. GAO 13-10 also consolidated cases filed by the highest
22 volume civil collection filers in particular divisions of the court so that the collection agency
23 attorneys could appear for their cases in one location. This was a benefit to the collection agency

attorneys, but it also benefited defendants who otherwise might have had to wait for a collection agency attorney to arrive from another division's courthouse for that defendant's case to be heard.

6. These case pre-assignment GAOs are not limited to civil collection cases. King County District Court has adopted similar orders for other types. For example, GAO 15-05 assigns cases to specific courthouses according to the police agency that files the case. The purpose behind these types of criminal case consolidations in certain courthouses is similar to the purpose for consolidating civil cases, i.e. the administration of justice is promoted by reducing the number of instances that the court and the parties have to wait for law enforcement or other witnesses or attorneys who may otherwise be scheduled to be at multiple King County District courthouses at the same time. In criminal cases, this consolidation of cases also promotes public safety as it reduces the amount of time that law enforcement witnesses spend away from their other duties in order to be present in court to testify.

7. Based on the Court's rulings in the present lawsuit brought under the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, King County District Court stopped enforcing the pre-assignment provisions of GAO 13-10 in 2016. And on February 8, 2017, Presiding Judge Donna Tucker signed GAO 16-08 rescinding GAO 13-10 in its entirety. A true and correct copy of GAO 16-08 is attached to this declaration as Exhibit B.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Dated this 15th day of March, 2017, at Seattle, Washington.


 JUDGE CORINNA HARN
 King County District Court